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SOCER WORLD

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15c

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CONTINENTAL
CHOCOLATES

ASF'S DECISION IS NOT SUPPORTED BY LEADING SYDNEY CLUBS

— By PAUL DEAN —

Sydney's leading clubs all expressed surprise about the ASF's decision not to enter the Merdeka Tournament this year.

The ASF recently decreed that the Merdeka would be bypassed in favor of the Saigon Tournament in November.

According to well informed sources, the decision was based on the supposition that the leading Sydney clubs would not release their star players in August and play some crucial competition games without them.

Astonishingly, though not surprisingly, the clubs have never even been consulted about this; their attitude must have been taken

for granted — incorrectly. The ASF has never approached the clubs concerned and, even more surprisingly, the NSW delegates to the ASF didn't appear to have a clear mandate to say yes or no.

We interviewed the presidents of the four Sydney clubs most likely to be concerned with the problem of releasing some of their players for the Merdeka Tournament.

These were their replies to a twofold question: have you ever been approached regarding your views and:

would you protest against one or two of your players taken away in August with the Australian team?

St. George - Budapest president Les Bordacs:

"I was surprised to hear about the Merdeka decision because neither my club nor myself have ever been consulted."

"Last year I made our position quite clear and this hasn't changed one bit: as far as we are concerned, Australia can go and play in the Merdeka in August.

"And if they want one or two of our best players

for the tour, we will not make any noise about it. "We realise that the Merdeka would be of national interest and success there would indirectly benefit all our clubs."

Pan Hellenic president George Pappas:

"We have never been officially approached with this question."

"Informally we have discussed the problem several times but neither the ASF nor the NSW Federation have ever asked us directly.

"If they do, our attitude is clear: while we wouldn't be overjoyed at losing one or two of our best players in the middle of the season, we would not protest either.

"I realise that these problems will have to be faced in the future in an increasing measure.

"We cannot expect all the other nations to adjust their schedules only because August for us is a 'bad time'."

Hakoah president Karel Rodny:

"Our club has never been officially asked to state its view regarding the Merdeka.

"But I can assure the soccer public that if the other clubs involved also showed unselfishness, Hakoah would be happy to go along with the majority and release players for the Australian team although the Merdeka clashes with the vital end-of-competition rounds.

"Hakoah, however, would prefer to see the ASF plan all future tours well in advance.

"There would then be no grounds for any club to object to the release of players."

APIA president Eddie Provera:

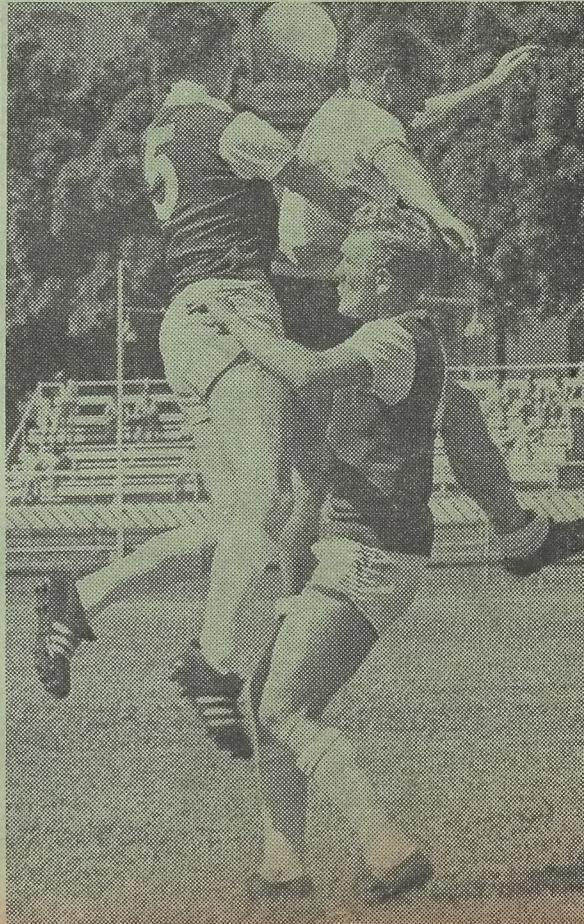
"My club has never been approached, officially or unofficially, on this matter — and we, naturally, never even discussed it.

"APIA stands on its record.

"We went along with the ASF when four of our key players were selected in the 1965 World Cup team though we had to play the Australia Cup semifinal and final against full-strength opponents.

"APIA has been the greatest provider of players for State and national teams in the history of the Federation.

"We never opposed releasing players in the past, and will continue to cooperate if the cause is a worthy one which will enrich Australian soccer."



Polonia forward Gaik (top right) and Saints' stopper Taylor stage a heading duel while Schaefer awaits the outcome.

Picture by Tim Pockley.

TOP FOUR AGAIN STREAK TO LEAD

— By LOU GAUTIER —

The 1968 Ampol Cup started with a mild surprise when in the very first match of the series, at the Showground last Friday night, a depleted Croatia defeated Prague, the favorites, 1-0.

The other matches went according to form, with APIA, St. George and Pan Hellenic recording easy wins.

As could be expected at this early stage, the football on view, especially on Friday night, left a lot to be desired.

The opening Ampol Cup matches, however, did show that there should be little change in the top Sydney hierarchy this season as the four winners last weekend were also the 1967 premiership semifinalists.

APIA, St. George and Pan Hellenic had very convincing victories and will certainly again be among the teams to beat in 1968.

Pan Hellenic, in particular, were most impressive and gave the best display of the opening round.

Of the losers, Prague have the least to be worried about as everything but the final result went their way in their match against Croatia.

Melita Eagles, Polonia and Yugal, on the other hand, must already feel apprehensive.

The Ampol debut of another four teams this week-

end — Hakoah, South Coast, Canterbury and the newly-promoted Manly — should give us a clearer picture of the First Division prospects.

One must, however, keep in mind that early season form is more often than not misleading, and that many teams will field vastly different line-ups once the competition gets under way in April.

Attendances at the opening Cup matches were disappointing: less than 6,500 watched the first two double-headers, whereas in Melbourne corresponding games attracted 15,700 spectators.

This weekend's program is an attractive one and, weather permitting, both Friday and Sunday double-headers should draw larger crowds.

Group leaders Pan Hellenic and APIA should confirm their convincing first round victories while Hakoah's first appearance will demonstrate whether their high hopes for a successful season are justified.

For our extensive Ampol Cup coverage turn to pages 4 and 5.



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Inter-Suburban League has new division

By KEITH GILMOUR —

The Inter-Suburban League, which is conducted by the NSW Federation and includes Sydney's leading amateur clubs, will field four divisions this year, instead of the three conducted in 1967.

Each club competing will field first and reserve grades.

West Ryde Rovers, a club with a good background and plenty of junior backing, will play in the League for the first time.

Promotion of North Sydney Inter to Federation Second Division has opened up the Inter-Suburban First Division.

Artarmon, only one point behind North Sydney last season, will be one of the early favorites for the title.

Club secretary Bill Orr advises that all of last season's players are again available, together with a few promising newcomers.

The club committee is considering whether their undefeated under-16 team should come up to reserve grade, or whether they should be held intact for another year.

It would not surprise if club coach Dave Reid held back the youngsters another year so that they gain maturity.

Artarmon are conducting Sunday morning trials at Artarmon Reserve, and training on the same ground Wednesdays.

The promoted Belmore club will be back in first division.

Last year was one of his best years on the field, and it is no surprise that Belmore are again relying on this great stalwart in a bid to make a permanent name for themselves in First Division.

Club secretary, C. Hullett, is pressing Council for better night lighting.

The amateur club uses Rudd Park three nights a week.

Other nights are used by Belmore's 39 junior teams, which leads to considerable congestion on the ground.

Inter-Suburban clubs will meet during February to discuss their affairs.

Concentration on the premiership proper for

almost the entire season proved a very successful move last year, and 1968 begins full of promise.

Metropolitan plans

The Metropolitan Amateur Association will consider whether the season's competitions can be consolidated to a greater degree.

Association president Eric Arneil says that all aspects of the problem will be closely examined at the Association's next meeting.

Metropolitan championships will start the first week in May as usual.

All leading associations in Sydney are advancing well with 1968 competitions.

At Bankstown it is already certain that three new clubs will be fielded.

They are Padstow Park, Villawood United, and the Young Explorers club drawn largely from the Padstow area.

Bankstown District is in an enviable position for early season grounds.

Local clubs will be pleased to accommodate visitors from other districts for Saturday and Sunday games throughout March.

Twenty playing fields will be available to soccer right through March.

Bankstown is also well prepared for 1968 in all representative grades.

Improvements

Many districts could improve "on ground" procedures for 1968 for the "midget" grades.

Too often enthusiastic cadet referees make a long ritual of checking boot springs, whereas almost all sprigs are of relatively soft rubber which will not injure an opponent.

Team coaches could also ensure that all players get a game in the young grades.

Often a goalkeeper is left to freeze for a whole match.

Transposing the keeper and a suitable field player for the second half can often ensure that all players get a satisfying game each week.

Pan Hellenic's regular stopper, JOHN COLE, is now fit and will soon resume playing with the first team.

Despite his still current contract, Hakoah have given JOHN DUFFY permission to negotiate with any club he wishes to join.

Marconi have signed APIA defender Natale Milani. Club patron CARLO ZACCAROTTO was instrumental in securing his services. Zaccarotto, one of the founders of APIA, has taken a keen interest in Marconi ever since their formation. A director of five companies, Zaccarotto enjoys a high standing in the Sydney business community.

GEORGE JAMIESON, the young Canterbury winger, will not play this season. Jamieson has given the game away for a year. He intends to take a complete rest from soccer and attempt a comeback in 1969.

South Coast have placed GEOFF BARNES, their English centre-half, on transfer for \$1,000. Barnes works and lives in Sydney. He only missed one first grade competition match last season.

GORDON SCOTTS, a Scottish forward, has joined Canterbury. He shows a lot of promise at training, but needs to lose some weight as he has put on a few extra pounds during his five-week sea trip to Australia. Scotts has been in Sydney for only three and a half weeks.

DENNIS PATERSON will not play for South Coast against Hakoah on Friday night. The representative winger will be best man at the wedding of Reg Birch's daughter, Caroline.

THISTLE, the amateur inter-suburban team, will share Bankstown Soccer Club Ltd's ground with Bankstown United for their 1968 home matches.

MIKE RINOS, Canterbury's effervescent forward, will miss most of the Ampol Cup. He fractured a cheekbone in the trial match against Manly last Saturday and had to be hospitalized.

Ex-Forfar Athletic forward DAVE KEDDIE will arrive in Sydney this week to join Hakoah. Keddie will be tried out on Sunday when Hakoah play a friendly match against South Coast at Woonona.

St. George-Budapest have secured three fine SOCCER FILMS which will be screened at Soccer House, Mortdale, on Thursday, February 15, and Thursday, February 29. The films are: Hungary v. England of 1953 at Wembley (20 minutes), the 1967 European Cup final — Celtic v. Inter Milan (50 minutes) — and an hour film, "The Road to Success", showing England's World Cup preparation and highlights of most 1966 World Cup games. For further details, watch this column.

Most of the DALLAS TORNADO touring party selected Australia as the best country they visited during their mammoth 47-country world tour. Some of the "Americans" were so wrapped up in this country, they

would like to remain here despite the excellent conditions they will enjoy when the American competition gets under way.

The CLASH OF COLORS in both matches last Sunday was severely criticised by spectators at Wentworth Park. The first match, between St. George and Polonia, in particular was most confusing as both teams were outfitted in a red and white strip. It is imperative in future that clubs be instructed to bring their alternative strip along in case of a clash of colors.

The outgoing YUGAL management committee was endorsed at the club's adjourned AGM last Sunday with instructions to call a special Annual General Meeting on March 3 where some changes to the management may be made.

To clear the air, ST. GEORGE-BUDAPEST may send some high-powered officials to Melbourne to discuss the Abonyi affair.

There are still some vacancies in Prague's all-star LADIES team which trains at Marks Field every Tuesday and Thursday. Interested lady players should ring George Warner on 32-5150.

Yugal coach, FERDO DU-NAJ, is unlikely to play in the Ampol Cup. The player-coach has informed the club he wants to rest his injured leg in order to be fully fit when the premiership gets under way. Bobic is also on the injured list, but he will play in a fortnight.

Canterbury's three GREEK IMPORTS are expected in Sydney in time for the Berries' next Ampol Cup match. Club official, Emmanuel Lautaris, is now in Greece completing the trio's negotiations, which are merely a formality, however, as they have already signed.

Last Sunday HAKOAH easily beat Newcastle Austral, at Newcastle, 5-0 in a friendly match with Baartz scoring four of the goals and Jones one. Hakoah have now scored 10 in two outings and intend to field the same team on Friday in the Ampol Cup.

A pity the SYDNEY SHOWGROUND enjoys such a poor reputation with Sydney fans. Despite all its drawbacks, which are many, the playing surface is now first class. The lush, well-clipped green turf is undoubtedly the best soccer pitch in Sydney.

Three promising local juniors have joined South Coast United. They are ALLAN JONES (Russell Vale) and twins CHRIS and TOM VANGELOVITCH (Corrimal).

ALAN BARRIE, one of the most promising Woonona juniors (Illawarra District Soccer Association) was killed instantly in a motor accident at the foot of Bulli Pass. Polonia winger, ANDREW GAIK, will make his farewell appearance on Friday night against Pan Hellenic. Gaik returns to Poland next week.

POLONIA-NS will hold a special Annual General Meeting next Sunday at the Polish House, Cabramatta.

JACK CURRY again suffered a facial injury, against Prague, last Friday night.

Croatia's Irish-born stopper was severely concussed and badly hurt his left eye and cheekbone. He will be out for at least a fortnight. Curry fractured his jaw in last year's premiership play-off against St. George-Budapest.

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HERBERT NINAUS is definitely staying on at Canterbury this season. He has trained with the team this season, but was forced to miss the last few training sessions because his wife is in hospital following a car accident. Ninaus will miss this weekend's Ampol Cup match.

St. George-Budapest forward, FRANK McCOLGAN, is now certain to return to his native Scotland for personal reasons. He has not yet decided whether he will make it permanent.

Newly-promoted club to Second Division, NORTH SYDNEY INTER, have started training. Sessions are held every Tuesday and Thursday at 7.30 p.m. at Cammeray Park. Details from Secretary at 42-5836.

At a special General Meeting last week, Lane Cove United elected former secretary, BRUCE REIMER, as club president. New honorary secretary is Robbie Robinson. Training for junior and senior teams are under way at Pottery Green Oval, Lane Cove.

The FRIENDLY MATCH between South Coast United and Melita Eagles at Woonona last Sunday ended with a 3-1 win for the Eagles. For Melita all three goals were scored by talented junior Wally Wollowszykow.

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SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

MELITA EAGLES will spare no effort to reinforce their team before the competition kicks off in April. The management is prepared to lay out cash on the line for big-name players. President Vince Pisani said this week his club would offer \$6,000 to Croatia for the double transfer of Brian Lincoln and Vic Reynolds. Melita are also very interested in signing the Canterbury pair of Jim Sambrook and Gerry Hood.

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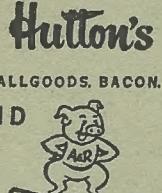
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ARE BEST

CAN NSW DEFEND ITS INTERSTATE TITLE?

— By LOU GAUTIER —

The NSW State squad to play Victoria next month will be selected next week.

NSW selectors, coaches Denes Adrigan, Laurie Hegyes and Joe Marston, will choose a 22-man squad which will meet Victoria in Melbourne, on March 11, and in Sydney on March 25.

Frank Parsons will manage the State team, which will be coached by Joe Venglos.

Training will start in a fortnight, with two weekly

sessions at the Sydney Showground.

NSW hasn't got a minute to waste.

Victoria have already selected their squad, which trains twice a week at Olympic Park under coach Mike De Bruyckere.

The Victorians are taking the two-legged series against NSW with the utmost seriousness.

NSW, the reigning interstate champions, cannot

afford to take the matches against the ambitious Victorians lightly.

The long-standing rivalry between NSW and Victoria, and their respective claims to national supremacy, make this interstate challenge a "natural," certain to draw large crowds in both cities.

The NSW management, selectors and players owe it to the Sydney public to make sure that the State team goes into the fray fully prepared.

An untrained motley crew would suffer a face-losing defeat against Victoria, whose recent results against touring teams, let's not forget, have been better than NSW's.

These are the 22 players I would select: Corry, Fuzes, Nuttall, Ackerley, Lincoln, Johnston, Marnoch, Schaefer, Westwater, Tolson, Scheinfug, Morgan,

Armytage, Warren, Cliss, Schauman, Blue, Watkiss, Blitz, Baartz, Giles, Smith.

NSW and Victoria have met 29 times.

Both States won 12 matches, and five games were drawn.

The last time they met was at the Sydney Sportsground on Anzac Day 1963 when NSW won 3-2.

The NSW team was: Lord; Banicevic, Sherwin, Kelly, Stojanovic, Dunaj; Blitz, Barnett, Ninaus, Jeffrey, Scheinfug.

Victoria lined up thus: Pukowski; Rasic, Falzon; Margarites, Rice, Micic; Campbell, Jurecki, Jankowski, Zientara, Pearson.

Barnett, Blitz and Ninus scored for NSW and Jimmy Pearson, who was later transferred to Pan Hellenic, scored the two Victorian goals.

Attendance was 9,700 in pouring rain.

The Australian Federation's Annual General Meeting at Surfers Paradise this month will show if Australia is really interested in Pacific progress.

New Zealand remains a poor relation, seemingly unable to get the spur on that could send its soccer along.

They stand still, even though the juniors are there.

Their greatest lack is a regular income, something which New Zealand-Australian co-operation can bring when major tours are planned.

All major touring teams should go on to New Zealand, just as Manchester United did.

A free-speaking, down-to-earth, no holds barred conference between Australia and New Zealand is needed.

At present, I regret to say, we barely speak the same language.

Australia, with some pretensions to Oceania leadership, could start the ball rolling.

— KEITH GILMOUR

...OR SO THEY SAY

We are starting a new column with this, based entirely on items, reports and comments published elsewhere.

Some of the items you will see here are merely controversial while others are plainly incorrect.

We are reproducing all items, literals and all, exactly as published.

We will NOT add comments to these items — any well-informed reader of SOCCER WORLD can do so himself.

* * *

"It's not only for financial reasons that I asked to be put on transfer. I am unhappy with APIA," Watkiss said.

"With the internal strife and the arguing going on around you, you lose all heart to play for the club."

(Sun, Jan. 25)

"Watkiss is in football to enjoy the game, to reach the top, scoop the honors, and fill his bank account with well-earned riches which come from reputedly being Sydney's top-paid player."

(Australian, Jan. 25)

"Mike Mazzina, the APIA coach, told me today: 'Everyone — well, nearly everyone — seems happy now, and our line-up tomorrow night will have the old champions look!'"

(Mirror, Jan. 25)

"Some of our senior players have been toying with training and even disregarding attempts to get fit while they have been arguing about money."

(Mirror, Jan. 26)

"No player in Australia is worth what APIA is asking for Watkiss," claimed the Hakoah president, Mr. Karel Bodny."

(Australian, Jan. 27)

"Vlasits reckons the second most important thing he did after taking Australia to its 10-0 series in South East Asia was to lure NZ forward Stefan Nemet to Australia."

(Mirror, Jan. 26)

"New Zealand international soccer forward Steve Nemet will play for Melita Eagles against Apia-Leichhardt in the 1968 Ampol Cup series at the Showground tonight."

(Sun, Jan. 26)

"Molnar, 31, from Czech club Inter Bratislava, represented Sweden and Czechoslovakia in consecutive World Cup series."

(Daily Telegraph, Jan. 26)

"Prague has signed two leading Czechoslovakian coaches, both of whom are university graduates."

"The men, Mr Joe Venglos and Dr Josef Bujna, have had wide experience in soccer with one of Czechoslovakia's leading clubs, Bratislava."

(Herald, Jan. 25)

"Archie Blue opened the scoring with a glancing header and Graham Mackinnon took advantage of an incredible blunder by a rival defender to make it 2-0."

(Australian, Jan. 27)

"Cliff Van Blerk opened the scoring when he headed the ball into the corner after a fine positioning kick by centre-forward Johnny Giacometti."

(Herald, Jan. 27)

Papua-New Guinea team will play three matches

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

An exciting tour will take place in Sydney later this month when the Papua-New Guinea national team will play several matches in NSW against a combined Sydney Second Division side.

Details of the visit were announced last week at a meeting of the Council of the Second Division clubs — which is sponsoring the tour — held at the Five Dock clubrooms of the Western Suburbs Soccer Club.

The touring squad of 17 players will include 16 natives and a white goalkeeper.

Strong side

According to the president of the Australian Coaches Federation, Denes Adrigan, who has just returned from a coaching tour of Papua-New Guinea the side is pretty strong and the locals will have to produce their best to beat the visitors.

The team will leave New Guinea on February 23 and play their first match at Corrimal Oval on the South Coast the next day.

Arrangements are now being made for the second

match to take place at Lidcombe Oval under floodlights on February 28, but if this fails, it is likely that this game will be transferred to Newcastle where good facilities are available.

Second Division XI

The third match of the tour will take place at Arlington Oval — the home ground of Canterbury-Marrickville — on March 2, and on the way home, tentative arrangements are being made for another game to be played in Brisbane.

Joe Marston, manager-coach of Western Suburbs, has been entrusted with the training and selection of the local side which will include players from practically every Second Division club.

Training sessions

The first training run will take place on Tuesday, February 6, and after another session on Thursday, February 8, the local side will be selected. (SOCCER WORLD will announce the NSW squad when it is released).

The plan is at present being ratified by the clubs and will be fully discussed at another meeting of the Second Division Council soon.



Second Division coach JOE MARSTON

At the same Second Division meeting a fortnight ago, several concrete proposals were outlined and briefly discussed by the members present with the result that a 14-point plan for the development and general improvement of the game will soon be submitted to the Management Committee for consideration.

The plan is at present being ratified by the clubs and will be fully discussed at another meeting of the Second Division Council soon.

SWANS WON'T FLY NORTH, SAYS ASF

The ASF Executive has refused Western Australia permission to compete in this year's Merdeka Tournament.

It is believed that some States strongly objected to a State representing Australia at the Merdeka.

The WA Federation is certain to demand that the matter be discussed again at the ASF annual general meeting later this month, held at Surfers Paradise.

Two wingers learning to make the grade do not add to the game as a spectacle.

A more balanced blend of experience and youth will interest the public more, and bring on the talent as well.

It wouldn't be surprising if the WA delegates would canvass sufficient votes to have

the decision reversed.

Last year Western Australia stood its ground very well at the Merdeka and were certain of being re-invited for 1968.

In 1967, as an unknown quantity, WA were allowed to compete.

Now that we know they can stand their ground fairly well, they are refused.

— Paul Dean

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— Lou Gautier

ANOTHER QUESTED

Seeing the first rate display of Len Quested's Granville under-16 team spearheaded by his son, Gary, last Friday week at the Showground again emphasised that the principle of junior development is as sound as a rock.

But do we attempt to blood too many players each time an overseas club appears?

Selectors gave the nod to Larry Armytage, Dennis Paterson, Geoff Morgan and Gary Manuel against the Dallas Tornadoes.

Two wingers learning to make the grade do not add to the game as a spectacle.

A more balanced blend of experience and youth will interest the public more, and bring on the talent as well.

It wouldn't be surprising if the WA delegates would canvass sufficient votes to have

— Keith Gilmour

PAN HELLENIC HANDS OUT WARNING TO ALL AMPOL CUP CONTENDERS

None of the four beaten teams last weekend were able to score consolation goals, and all four went down goalless — for the first time in any opening round of the Ampol Cup.

As the games progressed, an additional goal was scored: Croatia v. Prague 1-0, APIA v. Melita Eagles 2-0, St. George v. Polonia 3-0 and Pan Hellenic v. Yugal 4-0.

APIA, with 14 points, and Pan Hellenic on 16 points, went to the lead in their respective groups and even at this early stage seem to have taken an option towards qualifying for the new-look Australia Cup.

Our opening match reviews:

Last Friday:

Croatia surprise

All goals were scored in the first half at the Showground last Friday.

The honor of scoring the first goal of the official inter-club season befell Croatia teenager, Gary Frakes.

This 10th minute goal enabled Croatia to get off to a winning start in the series, and temporarily fill second place in Group "A", one point behind APIA, 2-0 winners of Melita Eagles in the late match.

CROATIA v. PRAGUE 1-0.

Fielding four juniors, Croatia surprised by beating Prague.

Prague, however, were unlucky not to, at least, share the points as they played the better football and employed more constructive and co-ordinated methods throughout.

Prague attacked almost continually, forcing goalie Corry to bring off some spectacular saves, some of which almost bordered on the miraculous.

From the kick-off Prague went straight into the attack and Manuel almost scored in the sixth minute.

Two minutes later came what proved to be the winning goal when 17-year-old outside-left Gary Frakes intercepted a short back-pass by a Prague half-back to beat King with a well-placed shot.

Nine minutes before half-time, Croatia's John Curry was forced to leave the field when he clashed heads with one of the Prague forwards and was replaced by Bonazza.

Prague continued to have the bigger share of the ball in the second half but although at times they produced some good movements, their forwards were too keen in front of goal and shot erratically.

Making his Sydney debut, Czechoslovakian international Pavel Molnar, playing at inside-left, performed well even if he was a bit slow on the ball.

His shooting at goal was most accurate and his ball distribution opened gaps in the tight Croatia defence on many occasions.

Late in the match, Prague nearly snatched the equaliser when Scheinflug's drive from close range was once again blocked by the brilliant Corry.

Croatia: Corry; Lincoln, Shepherd; Snedden, Sloan, Curry (Bonazza); Barboutis, Yaager, Brian, Giles, Frakes. Coach: A. Zanetic.

Prague: King; Harcombe, Moulson; Blacker, Rootsey, Blanco; Armytage, Scheinflug, G. Manuel, Molnar, Hoggarth. Coach: J. Venglos.

Scorer: Frakes 8 min.

Referee: A. Faraone.

— Charles Spiteri



R. CAMPANA (APIA)

APIA v. MELITA EAGLES 2-0

Fielding almost a full-strength side, in which only Watkiss was missing, APIA coasted to an easy victory.

They were never extended by a totally colorless Melita Eagles, whose forward-line was every bit as depressing as last season despite an infusion of new blood.

APIA did not have to raise a sweat: they were content to stroll along to the easiest of victories in a dull match.

APIA, despite their effortless win, have nothing to shout about: against such weak opponents they should have done much better and, at least, could have turned on some entertaining football for the small crowd.

A vital factor in the match was the good form and physical condition of Pat Hughes, who was almost back to his brilliant best of previous seasons.

On the other hand, Giacometti — another of the so-called "rebels" — had a very disappointing start to the season and, with the exception of an early shot at goal, never tried his luck and did not represent the slightest threat.

The least said about Melita at this stage the better.

Fielding nearly the same defence as in 1967, they were their usual solid, dour selves in the rearguard, but their forward-line turned in a shocker.

APIA goalie Taylor was called upon to make two saves all night, in contrast to the abnormally shaky Eaton, who was tested throughout the match.

APIA's forward-line has, and will no doubt, play much better, especially when new signing Keddie sheds his excess weight.

On Friday, APIA were best served by Van Blerk, Bottalico, Hughes, Blue and

Mckinnon, while Hewlett and Falzon were the only Melita players to rise above mediocrity.

APIA: Taylor; Nuttall, Ackerley; Hughes, Van Blerk, Bottalico; Keddie, Campana, Blue, Giacometti, McKinnon. Coach: M. Mazzina.

Melita Eagles: Eaton; Hunter, Woods; Arrighi, Falzon, Hewlett; Price, Mullan, Azzopardi, Goldie, Wolowszky (Bankhead). Coach: J. Vlasits.

Scorers: Blue 28 min., McKinnon 34 min.

Referee: K. Lockrey.

Crowd: 3,013 (double-header).

— Lou Gautier

Last Sunday:

Two easy wins

Despite the near heatwave conditions, the two Sunday matches produced some bursts of good football.

A vastly under-strength St. George still outclassed an aging Polonia, enabling prodigal son Schauman to make a successful re-entry into the Sydney scene.

In the late match a fit and exuberant Pan Hellenic tossed Yugal aside with contempt.

ST. GEORGE v. POLONIA 3-0

Polonia's team of veterans proved no match for Saints' second string line-up.

Schauman's display was the only bright spot of an otherwise hum-drum game.

He has lost none of his speed and ball-playing artistry, and the second of his two goals was classic in its simplicity.

Exchanging passes with McCue, Schauman glanced the ball wide of the diving Bout with casual ease.

Schauman has quickly developed an understanding with Fernandez, who looks fitter this year.

Allowing that Polonia hardly provided any sort of test, Saints' forward-line did well enough to suggest that, once Cliss, Warren and Stegbauer return, it will rank with Sydney's best.

The position with their defence, however, is not so promising.

Schaefer, whose well-being is vital to its efficiency, has all the symptoms of a player fed-up with soccer.

At times, on Sunday, he reverted to the hacking, kick-the-ball-anywhere style of old and he bore little resemblance to the player who so recently starred for Australia in Vietnam.

Polonia? On this form, and allowing it's still early in the season, they look relegation bait.

Again, they relied too heavily on Minol and Krawiarz in attack, their other forwards being mere passengers.

Nevertheless, Polonia could have made the scoreline more respectable had they not squandered scoring chances early in the match — the only time they were in the game.

Hall, signed from Auburn a fortnight ago, missed one chance in the first half, which most schoolboys would have taken easily.

Minol apart, Bout in goal, and to a lesser extent,

Apart from a fairly even first 15 minutes or so when Yugal appeared keen to make a fight of it, it was Pan Hellenic all the way.

In patches they played excellent football for this time of the year — or for almost any time, as a matter of fact.

Their defence was solid, their midfield workers energetic and their forwards highly enterprising.

At least two of their players are already in great form: fullback Johnston and left-winger Blitz.

Johnston, perhaps more than any other Sydney full-back, is gradually looming as a successful overrider, dashing off on the wing and creating havoc in the opponents' defences.

Blitz, this moody, introvert attacking genius, had one of his best days.

Equally effective with either foot, the Yugal defenders had no ready medicine against his mazy runs down the wing.

In fact, Blitz proved once again that on his day, he is still Sydney's most effective orthodox winger.

Yugal performed very, very moderately, never once

even looking like a solid team.

Their defence was no more stable than shifting sand and their forwards lacked any semblance of cohesion.

Their greatest shortcoming, however, was midfield where only the experienced and zestful Rafanelli even attempted to stem the tide.

Despite their poor showing, it could be too early to write Yugal off completely.

If and when Dunaj and Takac return to the fold, they could be many degrees stronger though, frankly, they must curtail their ambitions for this year.

Pan Hellenic: Clarke; Johnston, Hignett, Westwater, Mallard, Omeros, Smith, Karyannis, Laraman, McCulloch, Blitz. Coach: W. Vrolyk.

Yugal: Petrou; Nacino-vic, Crnich, Stosic (Lang), Banicevic, Rafanelli, Alagic, Lalic, Halpin, Edwards, Vesich. Coach: F. Dunaj.

Scorers: Blitz 32 min., Westwater 34 min., Karyannis 44 min., Laraman 56 min.

Referee: H. Parsons. Crowd: 3,400 (double-header).

— Paul Dean

RESULTS TABLES

GROUP		APIA	Canterbury	Croatia	Manly	Prague	Melita	Eagles
"A"		●						2-0
APIA		●						
Canterbury			●					
Croatia				●				
Manly					●			
Prague						●		
Melita Eagles							●	
		0-2						

GROUP		Hakoah	Pan Hellenic	Polonia	St. George	South Coast	Yugal
"B"		●					
Hakoah		●					
Pan Hellenic			●				
Polonia				●			
St. George-B.pest					●		
South Coast						●	
Yugal							●
		0-4					

SYDNEY PROGRAM

THIS WEEKEND

AMPOL CUP

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Pan Hellenic v. Polonia-NS — Showground, 7.30 p.m.

South Coast v. Hakoah — Showground, 8.55 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Manly v. Canterbury — Wentworth Park, 2.15 p.m.

APIA v. Prague — Wentworth Park, 3.35 p.m.

NEXT WEEKEND

AMPOL CUP

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Manly v. Melita Eagles — Showground, 7.30 p.m.

Canterbury v. Croatia — Showground, 8.55 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

South Coast v. Yugal — Wentworth Park, 2.15 p.m.

Hakoah v. St. George — Wentworth Park, 3.35 p.m.

GROUP "B"		P W D L F A P
P. Hellenic		1 1 — 2 14
St. George		1 1 — 1 13

GROUP LEADERS TIPPED TO WIN TWO IN A ROW

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Four teams make their Ampol Cup debut this weekend: Hakoah and South Coast, who meet at the Showground in the late match Friday night, and newcomer Manly, whose game against Canterbury will be Sunday's early fixture at Wentworth Park.

This weekend's program will have to be resolved before the start of the competition. It looks like a particularly attractive one, what with group leaders Pan Hellenic and APIA in action and the first official appearance of the revitalised Hakoah.

Our previews:

PAN HELLENIC v. POLONIA

Taking last week's matches as a line of comparison, Pan Hellenic should score another comfortable victory.

They played some entertaining, purposeful football in thrashing Yugal last Sunday, while Polonia were all at sea against St. George.

At this stage there appears to be a difference of two classes at least between the well-heeled, efficient Pan Hellenic and the slow-moving, hesitant Polonia.

Pan Hellenic's forwards should again relish the slow pace of their rivals and are fortunate they meet Sydney's two slowest teams in their first two matches.

Starting off with two resounding wins, as they should, will act as a great morale-booster and lift their confidence for the rest of the series.

So far this season Pan Hellenic have confirmed their improved showing of the end of last year when they performed so well in the Australia Cup.

They display more poise, make the ball do the work and run around with much more purpose than in the past.

As a result, their stamina now holds out for the full match and their players are no longer run off their feet in the latter stages of a match.

Disciplined both in defence and attack, with very few weaknesses at this stage, Pan Hellenic should have little trouble accounting for Polonia.

Polonia, who welcome back Dzialach, clearly missed the retired Nowacki's steady influence last Sunday.

Their defence, so reliable in the last, is now certain to cause them as much worry as their hapless attack — a nerve-racking situation which

MANLY v. CANTERBURY

Manly could have had a much worse introduction to First Division football, but against Canterbury they are in with a chance.

They defeated the Berries 1-0 in a trial match last Saturday and this victory, however insignificant the results of trial matches may be, will remove any inferiority complex they may have harbored on the eve of their big time debut.

Always strong in defence, it's their attack, so disappointingly sterile last season, which has surprised favorably so far this year.

The punch of Baartz and Barnett allied with the elegance of ball-playing Atoua and the dash of Edmunds on the wing will create a major problem for South Coast's reshuffled defence where Ramage and Akers will make their debut.

Barnett, in particular, will be all out to create havoc among his former team-mates. Together with Baartz, he could easily swing the match Hakoah's way.

Midfield, the newly-constituted halfback pair of Gardiner, who again replaces Ferrete, and Yaager should be able to dominate proceedings as United's young forward-line, minus Paterson, should not present too much of a danger.

On the eve of Jim Kelly's return, this South Coast team is still in an embryonic stage and may be drastically doc-tored once Kelly takes over.

South Coast cannot, and are not expecting any miracles.

Their form in trial matches has only been fair: they still have to win a match and Hakoah is the strongest side they've met so far.

Under new coach, Doug Holden, Hakoah seem to have abandoned their grim, ultra-defensive tactics to concentrate more on enterprising, open football.

With the rock-like Marnoch and Hillsdon in their rear-guard, their halves can afford to play attacking football.

This they will undoubtedly do against South Coast, whose chances of even forcing a draw are less than slim.

Canterbury will pin their hopes on fullbacks Whitehead and Mucillo, and forwards Paxinos and Romanos to curb Manly's youthful enthusiasm.

A draw is very much on the cards here, but Manly may have a slight edge.

APIA v. PRAGUE

Most of their differences with players settled, APIA will again be one of the teams to beat in the Ampol Cup.

They should confirm their ambitions of topping their group when they meet Prague in the late match at Wentworth Park on Sunday.

Prague were definitely unlucky not to beat Croatia last Friday night, but their forwards only have themselves to blame for not converting any of their countless scoring opportunities.

Despite all the budding talent in their team, Prague obviously will not develop into an irresistible match-winning combination until they acquire a goalscoring centre-forward, a striker to press home their advantage.

APIA are well served in this department, with Giacometti, Blue and McKinnon, all capable of seizing on the smallest half chance.

APIA's defence should be able to handle Prague's forwards if last week's display was any guide, but their forwards, we think, will be the ones who will swing the match their way.

This is a vital match for both teams: a second straight win would put APIA well on the road towards the Australia Cup, while another Prague loss could compromise their chances.

Prague may yet surprise, but APIA must be favored to win, though perhaps only narrowly.

PROBABLE TEAMS

PAN HELLENIC v. POLONIA

CLARKE	1	BOUT
JOHNSTON	2	ADDISON
HIGNETT	3	SKIBA
WESTWATER	4	BAKER
MALLARD	5	DZIALACH
OMEROS	6	KOMODER
SMITH	7	URBANIAK
KARYANNIS	8	KULAK
LARAMAN	9	MINOL
MCCULLOCH	10	KRAWIARZ
BLITZ	11	GAIK
Referee:	N.	JONES.

SOUTH COAST v. HAKOAH

RAMAGE	1	FUZES
RINGLAND	2	STEWART
AKERS	3	HILLSDON
DAVIES	4	GARDINER
CARR	5	MARNOCH
TOLSON	6	YAAGER
KERR	7	EDMUND
CONLIN	8	ATOUA
HARRISON	9	BARNETT
FREEME	10	BAARTZ
TOLHURST	11	JONES
Referee:	M.	BUCHANAN

MANLY v. CANTERBURY

TUINMAN	1	DEMOPoulos
McGRATH	2	WHITEHEAD
BROOKS	3	MUCILLO
VERRILLS	4	DRIKOS
CAMPBELL	5	GALBRAITH
FREEMAN	6	HARDIE
R. JONES	7	SCOTTS
HARRIS	8	KAUZ
G. JONES	9	ROMANOS
JAGGER	10	PAXINOS
WALLER	11	RAEBURN
Referee:	J.	HENKELMAN

APIA v. PRAGUE

TAYLOR	1	KING
NUTTALL	2	HARCOMBE
ACKERLEY	3	MOULSON
HUGHES	4	BLACKER
VAN BLERK	5	ZEMAN
BOTTALICO	6	SCHEINFUG
KEDDIE	7	ARMYTAGE
CAMPANA	8	BLANCO
BLUE	9	MANUEL
GIACOMETTI	10	MOLNAR
MCKINNON	11	HOGGART
Referee:	A.	BOSKOVIC.

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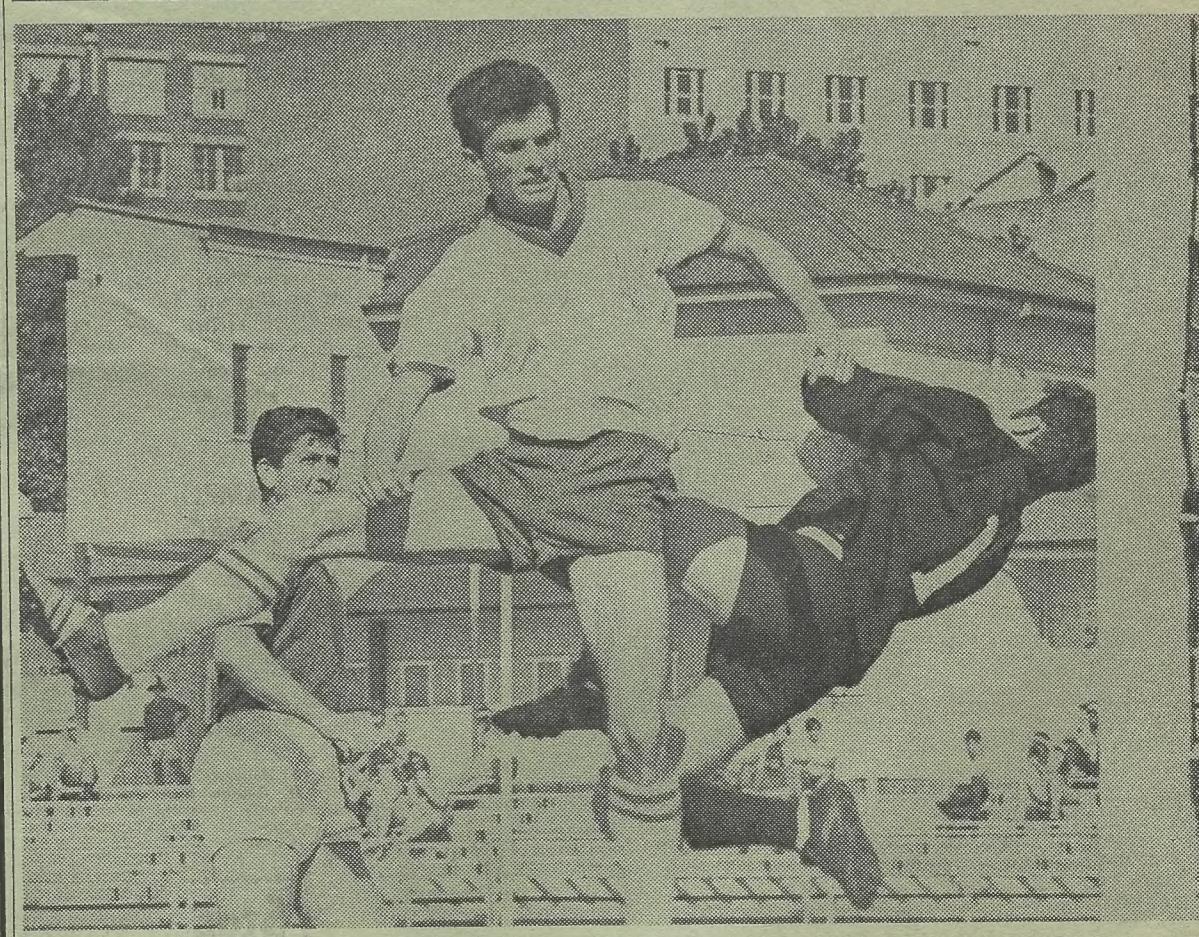
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One of the many spectacular saves of young Yugal goalie Petrou, shown here snatching the ball away from Karyannis. In the background Banicevic.

Picture by Tim Pockley.



ROUND THE WORLD

Charlton jubilee

Bobby Charlton has just played his 400th League match for Manchester United. Charlton made his debut on October 6, 1956 against Charlton Athletic. In his 400 matches he has scored 158 goals.

Link broken

Fiorentina have sacked their manager, Giuseppe Chiappella for "disappointing results". Chiappella has been with the Florentine club for over 20 years as player and coach; he took over as manager in 1963 from Hidegkuti.

Kidd for England

As first predicted by SOCCER WORLD, Manchester United starlet Brian Kidd is a future international. England manager Sir Alfred Ramsey has invited Kidd, already an under-23 representative, to join his squad at Lilleshall for special training.

Brief glory

The first returning Yugoslav player for whom a transfer fee has been paid is Žarko Nikolic who will now turn out for Rijeka. Nikolic played only five minutes with his former West German club, Schalke, before they carried him off with a serious injury. Rijeka paid \$26,000 for his transfer back.

Safe distance

The versatile Argentinian Juan Carlos Lorenzo is Catania's new manager. There is one stipulation in his contract: during matches he mustn't sit on the sideline. At the 1966 World Cup Lorenzo was in charge of Argentina — and played a big part in the infamous "Wembley scandal".

Ferencvaros in lead

The Budapest sports daily, "Nepsport", has just published their ranking of players for 1967 for the 11 positions. Ferencvaros players occupy five berths (Pancsics, Rakosi, Albert, Varga and Katona) while stopper Szucs is second. Ujpest have two first ranked players, Vasas, MTK, Diósgyőr and Tatabanya one each.

High wages worry Germans

West German soccer authorities are increasingly worried about the spiralling wages paid to Bundesliga coaches. An inquiry may be held at the end of the current season and a "ceiling" imposed. At the moment Cajkovsky, the Hannover coach, is paid \$800 a month, Merkel of FC Nürnberg, \$850; while Udo Lattek, employed by the West German FA to assist national team manager, Helmut Schoen, is only paid \$180 monthly.



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As of January 1, George Yardley had scored 23 goals for his club Tranmere and led the marksmen in all four English League Divisions.

● Legia Warsaw, the Polish "autumn champions" are currently touring Mexico for six matches.

● During 1967, 201 players were transferred in England. A staggering \$12 million changed hands between the professional clubs last year.

● West Germany's international commitments until the end of the season are: v. Belgium, at Brussels on March 6, v. Hungary on April 17 and v. Wales at Cardiff on May 8.

● Edmundo Fabbri, the former Italian national team manager, has already renewed his contract with Torino for 1968-69.

● Santos' trainer, Lula, has been signed by Corinthians São Paulo. He replaces Zeze Moreira, who resigned two months ago.

● Six more Danes moved to the US last week: Steen, Olsen, Henriksen, Petersen (Hvidovre) and Frats and Dyreborg. All will sign for a Boston club.

● Another Dane, Tom Sondegaard, the right-winger of the national team, has joined Rapid Vienna, where he will play alongside his successful countryman, Bjerregaard, Austria's top goalscorer last season.

● Celtic will play a match in Dublin on St. Patrick's Day against an Irish League XI.

● Gornik Zabrze are training for their European Cup quarterfinal tie against Manchester United in Southern Russia (Georgia) together with the Soviet national team.

● Ruch and Katowice, the Polish First Division teams, are spending the winter in Yugoslavia while Polonia Bytom and LKS are in Georgia.

● Sparta Prague will sojourn in Italy and Cyprus before meeting Real Madrid in the European Cup quarterfinals.

● Racing Buenos Aires have finally taken some action against players involved in last year's Intercontinental Cup fracas against Celtic. Centre-forward Rulli was suspended for three matches and stopper Basile for one match. Paltry and far too delayed punishment, according to the world Press.

● Many former all-time greats will take part this weekend in a match against West Germany's 1954 World Champions at Dortmund. They include Fontaine, Stanley Matthews, Rik Coppens, Jack Kelsey, Danny Blanchflower, Gunnar Gren, Gunnar Nordahl and Cajkovski. The match has been organised by the German Sports-writers' Union.

● The Congo won the African Cup. They beat Ghana 1-0 in the final at Addis Abeba, Ethiopia.

● South America's only First Division football-playing priest is Brother Legarra Ponce, who plays for Cienciano de Cuzco, the Peruvian Cup winners.

● Partizan Belgrade fined their young under-23 international forward, Bora Djordjevic, \$800 for "gross indiscipline." Djordjevic skipped a week's training to holiday with his girlfriend on the Dalmatian coast.

● Sandor Barcs was elected president of the Hungarian FA, whose new secretary-general is Janos Borzsei, 47, former MTK international.

● England's 35-man strong national squad is training three afternoons a week at the famous Lilleshall Centre for the vital European Championship qualifying match against Scotland at Hampden Park on February 22. England only need to draw to qualify for the quarter-finals, where their opponents will be Spain, the reigning European champions.

● Two of Brazil's top teams are now in Belo Horizonte, in the province of Minas Gerais. They are Atlético and Cruzeiro who drew 100,000 at their recent clash.

● The English House of Commons has in principle approved Sunday soccer.

● A recent ballot among supporters of AC Milan showed that the club's most popular player in the past 15 years was the Uruguayan Juan Schiaffino, ahead of two Swedes, Nordahl and Liedholm.

● Since their return to First Division soccer in 1963, Liverpool have played 28 matches at home against London opponents — and lost only once.

● The Canadian Television Network shows each Sunday some 20 minutes of highlights of the previous week's Italian soccer matches.

● Chelsea's Scottish star forward Charlie Cook is a fine golfer, playing on a handicap of two.

● Hungary has 3011 proper soccer grounds, 215 of them in Budapest.

● As Manchester United and Gornik Zabrze couldn't agree on their European Cup dates, the UEFA set the days: February 28 in Manchester and March 13 in Poland.

● Deportivo Arica of Chile lost their inside-forward star Carlos Gutierrez, who was recently stabbed to death in a bar fight.

Di Stefano quits — sued

Alfredo Di Stefano has resigned as coach of the Spanish First Division club, Elche, which he only joined five months ago. The former Real Madrid star quit after alleging some of his players had been instructed by their management to "throw" the competition match against Zaragoza to further embarrass him for the poor results Elche achieved since he took over. Elche president, Jose Esquitino, is now suing Di Stefano for slander, which is punishable by a stiff jail sentence in Spain. Meanwhile Di Stefano is back in Madrid where he was interviewed by Benfica officials, still looking for a replacement for coach Riera. Daucik, Kubala's brother-in-law, is Elche's new coach.

Maccabi in Argentinian spotlight

The big soccer topic in Argentina is the advent of Maccabi Buenos Aires, a Jewish-sponsored club, to the First Division this season. Formed in 1930, the club played in Buenos Aires' Jewish League until the early 1940's when, under coach Ferenc Sas, a Hungarian international from MTK, they gained promotion to the Argentinian amateur league. In 1959 Maccabi won the right to play in Argentina's Third Division, which they duly won in 1962. Last year they topped the Second Division to become the only minority-sponsored First Division team in the country. Chile, too, has a First Division Jewish club, Palestino. Patron of Maccabi is David Roisin, a multi-millionaire industrialist who spent \$80,000 during the off-season to reinforce his team.

Germans plan well ahead

With typical thoroughness the Germans have already designated the cities for the 1974 World Cup, which will be played in West Germany. One group will be held in the North (Berlin, Hamburg, Hannover), one in the South (Munich, Nurnberg, Augsburg), in the West (Cologne, Essen, Dusseldorf, Dortmund) and the fourth in the South-West (Frankfurt, Ludwigshafen, Stuttgart and Saarbrücken).

Slovan Bratislava player dies

Jan Hoffmann, the Slovan Bratislava half-back who toured Australia two years ago, died violently last week in Perugia, Italy. Hoffmann, who is believed to have suffered a nervous breakdown, jumped out of a fourth floor window of the hotel in which Slovan were staying for a friendly match against the local team.

Matrai quits Ferencvaros

Sandor Matrai, the 36-year old Hungarian international stopper, has left Ferencvaros to coach the newly-promoted Egyetertes. Matrai, who visited Australia with Ferencvaros in 1957, had been with the Budapest club since 1953 and he has played for Hungary 80 times. Until recently St. George-Budapest had hopes of signing him as a player.

Puskas' international brigade

Fréderic Puskas' new Vancouver team is certainly a cosmopolitan outfit. The team, which Puskas coaches as from February 1, includes four Spaniards, three Englishmen, three Hungarians, two Yugoslavs, two Americans, a Dutchman, a Frenchman, and an Argentinian, a Cypriot and a Czech — but no Canadians. Puskas spent a week in New York as an observer at the talks between the two newly-reconciled US leagues before settling with his family in British Columbia.

SCOREBOARD

BELGIUM: Standard Liege v. Bruges 1-2; Racing White ADO 0-0; GVAV v. Lierse 2-2; St. Trond v. Ahead 1-0; Fortuna v. Feyenoord 0-2; Daring v. noord 2-1; Ajax v. DWS Beveren Waas 0-0; Malines 4-1; NEC v. Sittardia 3-0; v. Beerschot 1-2; Sporting Charleroi v. FC Liege 0-0; Olympic Charleroi 2-0; Waregem v. Beerlegem 2-1.

FRANCE: Rouen v. Nantes 0-5; Cagliari v. Bologna 1-1; Fiorentina v. Milan AC 0-2; Inter Milan v. Mantova 3-0; Napoli v. Roma 2-0; Sampdoria v. Varese 1-1; Spal v. St. Etienne 1-1; Lille v. Sochaux 2-0; Lyon v. Sochaux 2-0; Valenciennes v. Lens 1-1.

GREECE: Apollon v. Panathinaikos 1-2; Olympiakos v. Panathinaikos 2-0; Heraklis v. AEK 0-2; Aegaleo v. Ethnikos 1-2; Vyzas v. Pierikos 3-0; PAOK v. Veria 1-2; Xerxes Antwerp v. Olympic Charleroi 2-0; Waregem v. Beerlegem 2-1.

ITALY: Brescia v. Torino 0-5; Cagliari v. Bologna 1-1; Fiorentina v. Milan AC 0-2; Inter Milan v. Mantova 3-0; Napoli v. Roma 2-0; Sampdoria v. Varese 1-1; Spal v. Vicenza 3-0; Juventus v. Atalanta 2-1.

SPAIN: Malaga v. Real Sociedad 2-0; Pontevedra v. Espanol 3-0; Barcelona v. Bilbao 1-0; Elche v. Atletico Madrid 1-0; Sabadell v. Betis 3-1; Sevilla v. Las Palmas 0-1; Real Madrid v. Zaragoza 3-2; Cordoba v. Valencia 1-1.

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MELBOURNE NEED GOOD WIN TO STAY IN CUP

— From BOB LOW in Melbourne —

As the Ampol Cup comes up for the fourth round after which each team will have played two games apiece, a clear pattern of the outcome of the qualifying rounds emerges.

Unless Melbourne have a clear cut win over Slavia, they are a gonner.

A win for Hakoah over Hellas would ensure them a place in the semis and once again brand Hellas as a flop in cup tie soccer.

Melbourne v. Slavia

What an appeal this game should have. The reigning Australia Cup winners and State League champions versus the 1963 Australia Cup winners; the finalists in last season's Ampol Cup when Slavia were forced to a replay before downing Melbourne.

Slavia are real cup fighters, having won the Dockerty Cup three times in the last four years.

Pity that Melbourne cannot field their full strength attack although Slavia will be also handicapped to some extent as classy full-back David High has quit the game to concentrate on his insurance business.

Melbourne are at a decided disadvantage and have only a slim chance of qualifying for the semi-finals.

Facing a team which has two first class attacking wing halves in Tom Randles and Jock Goodwin, Melbourne's chances may hinge on whether they can draw this pair deep into their own half and then make lightning moves in attack and catch Slavia with a four-man defence.

One thing is certain. Handicapped as they may be, Melbourne will play

soccer and plan their way to victory. Gone are the days for the Hungarian club when they relied on luck and booting the ball around without any purpose. However, form favors a win for Slavia.

Hellas v. Hakoah

Quite frankly, Hellas will have to show much better overall form in this game, more method, better teamwork and cohesion than they did against George Cross, to have any hopes of putting themselves in with a chance of making the last four.

Hellas can most definitely improve, especially in attack which can almost be classed as the bread and butter of their side.

It only needs Pyrgroli, Kokinos and Damanaikos to get into top gear to be a real menace to Hakoah's defence, especially if Kamboropoulos and Ackerley get to feed this trio.

With a resounding win over Juventus and a settled team into the bargain, Hakoah have almost a head start in this game.

Hakoah are solid in defence with Australian stars George Keith at full-back and Dick Van Alphen in the pivot's position showing no signs of weariness after their exhausting tour in Asia.

They have an ace up front in goal-grabber Jim Armstrong who will have to be closely policed by the Hellas left flank unless they

want to run the risk of the former Port Glasgow junior scoring his second hat-trick in succession.

I'm not trying to chicken out in suggesting this game

may end in a division of points, but knowing the teams as I do, so little separates them overall that this is how I reckon it may finish.

Last year's final may be re-enacted

— From ALLAN CRISP in Adelaide —

South Australia's Ampol Cup, which has drawn big crowds to the six games decided so far, will resume tonight (Friday, February 2) when last year's finalists Juventus and Polonia clash in the late game.

Polonia, under coach Edmund Kreft, forced Juventus to an extra-time replay after drawing last year's final 2-2.

With Kreft not an applicant for the position this year, Eugene Nowak has been appointed coach.

The giant stopper will pit his wits against new Juventus non-playing coach Mario Danielli.

Juventus and Polonia both won their opening Ampol games with Juventus creating the best impression.

Polonia struggled early before downing Victoria 4-2 but Juventus cakewalked to an effortless 5-2 win over Seaford-Austria.

The most pleasing feature of the Juventus game was that Danielli has replaced individualism with team work.

Polonia captain Rick Hamence and striker Gene Mielnik will both make their 100th appearance for their club tonight.

Hamence was to have brought up his century against Victoria but after cutting short his honeymoon and travelling over 400 miles he was not included in the team.

Juventus will find Polonia a tougher proposition than Austria, particularly if Roger Romanowicz hits his top form.

Polonia youngsters, "Ziggy" Tomaszewski and Henry Kolecki, showed last week that they have the potential to be as successful as former "babes," Romanowicz, Lukas Kouzupa, Gene Mielnik and Maryan Kolecki.

Juventus, revelling in the coaching and conditioning of Danielli, should win an entertaining match.

Beograd-Woodville will pit their youth against the experience of Seaford-Austria in tonight's early game.

Beograd, bolstered by the inclusion of Rab Jones from Austria, brought the best out of Hellas before class triumphed.

Austria, although swamped by Juventus, can take consolation in the success of their two new signings, John Calderbank (Port Adelaide) and Laurie Peterson (WA Hellas).

I expect these two to exert a big influence on the result but feel that Rab Jones in his mid-field role will hold the key responsibility for Beograd against his old club.

The more fluid Beograd are my choice to win an even game.

McColl hits vital goal

A goal in his first Victorian match by Tommy McColl, the former Adelaide inside forward who toured Saigon with the Australian team brought Juventus back into the Ampol Cup reckoning when they defeated George Cross 1-0.

Details:

- Footscray-JUST v. Croatia 1-1.

- Goalscorers: T. Kasi for JUST; Glaser for Croatia.

- Juventus v. George Cross 1-0.

- Goalscorer: T. McColl for Juventus.

The total attendance for the three rounds played so far is 22,383 which seems to indicate that this year, the record attendance and receipts for the Ampol Cup will be shattered.

Croatia disappoint

In a disappointing, scrappy game, JUST held Croatia to a 1-1 draw.

Neither side showed any marked superiority over the other, although Croatia in the first half looked more likely to score.

However, the only goal came in that half when Croatia forward Glaser, following up a McMeekan shot which Sam Kazi failed to hold, smashed the ball into the net from close range.

The second half also failed to develop the obvious talents of both sides.

A. Kazi pulled Footscray-JUST back to level terms late in the second half when he headed home a cross from Adamovic on the left wing.

Lucky win

Juventus, while showing an improvement, scored a lucky 1-0 win over George Cross who seem to be recovering some of their former greatness.

Both sides strengthened their line-ups by the late signing of a player apiece from relegated Makedonia.

George Cross with centre-half George Cairns and Juventus with centre-forward Ian Currie.

This seemed to give them the necessary pep as both teams started off at a fast pace with George Cross the more penetrative in attack.

In fact, had it not been some improved goalkeeping by Juventus' Ian McDonald, George Cross could have taken a handy lead at half time.

But luck was not with George Cross and Juventus held firm in defence.

They grabbed a golden opportunity late in the game when Tommy McColl, who had given a hard working performance, hooked the ball into the net during a scramble in the George Cross goalmouth. B.L.

Two more on the way to Sydney?

The biggest loss newly promoted State League club Wilhelmina suffered during the off season was the departure of their English full back Terry Vowles to Sydney.

Tall, well built and commanding, Vowles was an outstanding performer in the Wilhelmina side both before they got relegated and during their one year spell in the First Division.

Sure-footed, good in the tackle and also in the air, his long punts upfield reminded me of George Young, the former Glasgow Rangers and Scotland captain, who turned defence into attack in a matter of seconds.

So far Terry has not been transferred to a club in Sydney.

But there has been at least one overtur for his services which didn't measure up to the Wilhelmina club's valuation.

Another Sydney side is reported to be on the verge of bidding for his transfer.

According to reliable information, Ian Monan, the Hakoah centre-forward has also gone to Sydney and while Hakoah officials are quiet over the business, I'm predicting he has played his last game for the Middle Park side.

Something of a giant in soccer, Monan stands 6'4" and not surprisingly, scored many good goals with his head in 1967.

— Bob Low

Reed's dilemma

Not my words but those of Davie Closs, the Juventus wing-half and captain, who recently made up his differences with the club and is certain Juventus won't remain in the doldrums for long.

Tommy showed some of his real form against George Cross and his golden goal gave Juventus their first night soccer left.

Many people are under the misapprehension that Paddy Sloan, the former South Melbourne Hellas and Juventus coach holds a similar position with Slavia. This is not so.

Former Slovan Bratislava and Czechoslovakian international keeper Schroif, who guards the sticks for the Port Melbourne side, is in fact, the team coach.

But they have made no concrete move up to the present to get him back.

— Bob Low

fact team manager with Slavia.

When Slavia's new wing half Alan Reed left England where he had played with Tottenham Hotspur reserves and later with non-league side Romford, he hurriedly packed his boots after playing his last game for the Essex club.

In the whirl of excitement in leaving for Australia with his wife, he had time to clean his soccer tools of trade thoroughly.

Imagine his surprise when he landed at Station Pier in Melbourne, opened his suitcases and the Customs officials noticing the mud on his soccer boots promptly scraped it off and tipped it over the side of the quay.

No fools, the Customs men reckoned they couldn't afford to take any chances with the foot and mouth disease being prevalent in England at the time Alan left.

— B.L.

ADELAIDE RESULTS

Wednesday, January 17.

SA v. Dallas Tornado 2-3 (0-2). Scorers: Larsen, Renshaw, Tonning for Tornado; Nowak (penalty), Lovell for SA.

AMPOL CUP

USC Lion v. Croatia 1-1 WA Hellas v. Beograd 6-2 Polonia v. Victoria 4-2 Juventus v. Austria 5-2

SA will play Victoria in Melbourne on March 17 and the return game in Adelaide will be on April 25.

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PUSKAS IS THE IDOL OF HUNGARIAN ACE

Florian Albert, the Ferencvaros and Hungary centre-forward is very much in the news these days.

The 25-year-old Hungarian star has been interviewed by scores of European journalists ever since his choice as the 1967 European Player of the Year.

In this interview, which was published in FRANCE FOOTBALL, Albert talks to countryman Laszlo Lukacs.

Question: How much rest do you need to recuperate after a tough season?

Answer: At least three weeks. That's the minimum required for both muscles and nerves to recover. I don't believe in a long lay-off. I think that in this age of modern training techniques, any player should be able to withstand 11 months of continuous football.

Q: You are captain of both Ferencvaros and Hungary. How does this dual responsibility affect you?

A: I'm proud and happy to captain the two teams. It shows that I'm trusted and liked, and I will always do my utmost to justify this confidence. The captain of a team is a link between players, coach and management. I used to argue a lot on the field, but since I'm the captain, I've attempted to keep my temper in check. I'm convinced this has improved my play.

Ampol Cup will be Aust. Cup qualifier

The Ampol Cup will no longer be used as a vehicle for Australia Cup qualification next year.

This year's premiership will determine the 1969 Sydney Australia Cup participants.

The first six teams, in their final competition order, will compete in next year's Australia Cup, which, at this stage, is again planned as a mid-week series throughout the winter months.

The NSW Federation Executive decided to use the Ampol Cup as this year's qualifier to give every First Division Sydney team a chance to compete in the national series.

The Executive felt, quite rightly, that it wouldn't have been fair to give last year's Australia Cup qualifiers an automatic berth in this year's competition.

So this year, but only this once, the first three teams in each of the preliminary Ampol Cup groups will qualify for the Australia Cup.

The No. 1 Sydney seed will be the group winner with the most points, the third seed the group runner-up with most points, while the sixth Sydney seed, the team which will meet the ACT entrant in the play-off, will be the third placed side with the least points.

— Lou Gautier

Q: Is there a recipe for a long and successful career?

A: One must love soccer passionately. The rest will follow naturally.

Q: Are you satisfied with what you've achieved so far in soccer?

A: I have every reason to be happy. I've played in two World Cups and at the Olympics. With Ferencvaros I won three Hungarian championships and the Fair Cities' Cup. And now I have been named European Player of the Year. I've travelled all over the world thanks to soccer. I still have one ambition: to lead the Hungarian national team to world supremacy and emulate our 1948-54 team's triumphs.

Q: Did you ever see the Hungarian wonder-team in action?

A: If I close my eyes I can still see today the marvellous displays of Kocsis, Puskas and their teammates. I came to Budapest in 1952, and have played with Ferencvaros ever since. I was lucky enough to play only in the morning in these days. In the afternoon

I was able to watch all the great players of that era in action. Puskas and his companions still embody my ideal of a soccer player.

Q: So you don't think that the great Hungarian team can be bettered?

A: This is a question of concept. In spectacular appeal, I think it will be difficult to do better. But today, soccer is played in an entirely different manner and spirit. Football has developed into a hard struggle. The soccer world is divided in two camps: those who still prefer to play open, technical football, and those who rely on physical strength. I don't think it's a coincidence that at the last World Cup the most attractive soccer was played in the Brazil-Hungary-Portugal group — three teams still inclined towards romantic soccer.

Q: How would you compare rough play?

A: By sending off brutal players without a warning. **Q:** Who would you select in your "world" team? **A:** My team would be: Yashin, Santos, Meszoly, Marzolini, Beckenbauer,

Rattin, Johnstone, Eusebio, Pele, Charlton, Simoes.

Q: Your prediction for the 1970 World Cup?

A: I have a strong feeling that two South American teams, a European country and Mexico will be the semifinalists. Naturally, I am hopeful Hungary will be the European semifinalist.

Q: Which is the greatest: Pele or Eusebio?

A: An impossible comparison. Both are exceptional players, ranking with the all-time greats of the game.

Q: Will you seek a sporting career for your children?

A: Magda, my daughter, is already sports-minded. She likes handball. My son is only two months old . . . but I am determined to make a soccer player of him.

Q: Have you any hobbies?

A: I like light music, operettas, Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley. I am also a mad collector of club pennants.

Q: What is your main ambition?

A: I have two goals in life: to cater for my family and secure my career when my playing days are over. When I will stop playing, I hope to further my career as a journalist by commenting on the new players that come along. One thing is certain: soccer will always be the most important thing in my life with my family.

COOK'S TOUR OF MELBOURNE

The three-week suspension imposed by the club on right winger Peter Kurta has given Frank McCann of Melbourne an extended chance of capturing a regular first team place in the league champions' attack.

Frank, a former Bridgeton Waverley (Glasgow) player, joined Melbourne over three years ago and after showing considerable promise, drifted out of the game for well over a year during which he added many surplus pounds to his weight.

In mid-1967 Frank made a determined come-back, shed his surplus weight and after a prolonged spell in the reserves made some contribution to his side's eventual success in late 1967.

Now Frank is almost back to his best and should Kurta eventually take back his old position on the wing after his suspension, I reckon Frank has a better than even chance of still getting a place.

BAKER HOLDS HIS PLACE

A pleasing feature for Hakoah so far this season has been the excellent form shown by David Baker at left half.

An Englishman who joined the club two years ago, he had until this season made only fleeting appearances in the first team and at fullback.

His selection with the under-23 Australian team which went on tour in late 1967 seems to have convinced

both the Hakoah management and coach Manny Poulakakis that his best position is left half where he has displaced Hakoah's longest serving player, Alan Stenhouse.

In both his night games so far Baker has impressed as a clean-cut and dedicated player who plays it cool and has plenty of ability into the bargain.

POLONIA IN RESHUFFLE

Out of the Ampol Cup for the first time since the State League was formed, Polonia have undergone a face-lift in more ways than one and are quietly going about the task of preparing the team for the "bread and butter" competition.

This is what's happened to Polonia since the end of last season.

• The annual meeting saw a new president, secretary and team manager elected.

• Vic Janczyk, their captain-coach for the past few years and the stalwart of their defence resigned as coach and his future as a player with Polonia seems in doubt.

But under an agreement with the club, Janczyk cannot

move to another side and it seems likely that if he quits playing with Polonia he will concentrate on getting a coaching post with another club.

• Polonia quit their Brooklyn Speedway ground where its length and breadth did not conform to the rules of the game. Polonia will return to their former abode, Maribyrnong Reserve which was vacated by Croatia when they obtained the main lease of Olympic Park.

• Polonia are trying to get a good class coach, presumably from Poland, and also hope to get two or three new players from the same source.

Kun says no to Abonyi

Recently returned from a six-week trip to Europe where he renewed many friendships in soccer, especially in his native Hungary, Andy Kun, the Melbourne HSC chairman was amazed and deeply concerned over the Abonyi saga when he was told the "inside story."

Before leaving Sydney on his trip to Europe, Kun told me he had made it crystal clear to St. George-Budapest that Abonyi was not for transfer at any price but if Melbourne at any time in the future changed their mind, this club would have the first opportunity of bidding for Abonyi's services.

Disgusted with the whole affair, Kun emphatically states that no club in Sydney or elsewhere has made any official approach for Abonyi's transfer and he agreed that there is strong evidence to support a claim that the player has been "tapped" somewhere along the line.

The Melbourne chairman reiterates his management's view that Abonyi will not be transferred or be able to kick a ball in competitive soccer except with Melbourne.

He went on to say that any bad feeling which has been created in connection with this affair was not started and is not the fault of his club and management.

— Bob Low

EDITORIAL

Time to think more carefully

Despite the many brave words spoken by various leading officials in the past, Australia has once again decided not even to consider entering the Merdeka Tournament in August.

This decision was taken by the ASF Executive in Melbourne recently.

The Executive also decided that if finances permit it, Australia will return to the Saigon Tournament at the end of the year.

Undoubtedly the reason behind the Merdeka decision was a reluctance to interrupt the domestic competition in August.

This would apply mainly to NSW and Victoria who always provide the bulk of the touring teams.

Actually, it seems, that the ASF has never properly tested the feelings of the clubs over this matter.

Many people firmly believe that Australia should enter the Merdeka, if invited, despite the unfavorable date.

This is Asia's major tournament where we could finally establish ourselves as a power in this part of the world.

If the ASF and the "senior States" were sincere in their wish to send a team to the Merdeka, they could do it in one of two ways:

• Take no more than two players on tour from any one club and keep the domestic competitions running.

• Suspend the competition in NSW and Victoria for four weeks and stage a knock-out carnival to provide clubs with some revenue.

Undoubtedly the first solution would be by far the simplest. Rugby Union does it all the time, taking up to five or six star players from the current glamor club, Randwick — who are still obliged to play their competition matches without them.

But by limiting the quota to two players per club, nobody would suffer unbearable losses.

We feel that there is still time to re-think the hurried decision to bypass the Merdeka if the almost certain invitation arrives.

The ASF annual general meeting at the end of this month should review the matter and make an effort to find a solution to this problem which is likely to crop up year after year.

Big Glasgow clash will complete ties

Although the quarterfinal draw of the European Championship has already been made, one group's winner is still not known.

This will be decided with the Scotland v. England match in Glasgow on February 24.

For the sake of our internationally-minded readers, these are the final group tables:

GROUP V:	
Hungary	6 4 1 1 15-5 9
E. Germany	6 3 1 2 10-10 5
Holland	6 2 1 3 11-11 5
Denmark	6 1 1 4 6-16 3

GROUP VI:	
Italy	6 5 1 0 17-3 11
Rumania	6 3 0 3 18-14 6
Switzerland	5 2 1 2 16-11 5
Cyprus	5 0 0 5 1-24 0

GROUP VII:	
France	6 4 1 1 14-6 9
Belgium	6 3 1 2 14-9 7
Poland	6 3 1 2 13-9 7
Luxembourg	6 0 1 5 1-18 1

GROUP VIII:	
England	5 4 0 1 14-4 8
Scotland	5 3 1 1 9-7 7
Nth. Ireland	5 1 1 3 2-6 3
Wales	5 0 2 3 4-12 2
Finland	6 0 2 4 5-12 2

To be played: Nth. Ireland v. Wales Feb. 23, Scotland v. England, Feb. 24.

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FLOTTA LAURI